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THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

MISSIONS

The Assassination of Armenia

In the *Missionary Review* for November there appears an account of the "Assassination of Armenia" which, it is stated, is a description by government representatives, teachers, missionaries, and other eyewitnesses of the Turkish program of annihilation. The article reminds us of the terrible massacres of 1895-96 when 88,243 Armenians were murdered; 500,000 were robbed of all they possessed; and 2,493 villages and towns were plundered. Mention is made also of the massacres of 1909 when 5,000 or more Armenians died in the onslaught on Adana. With these facts in mind the following statement forces upon us the extent of the present butchery: "The most brutal, the most ruthless, the most inexcusable, and the most widespread massacres of Christians in the last 1,000 years are deluging Armenia with the blood of men, women, and children." The following is the text of the government order covering the case: "The commanders of the army, of independent army corps, and of divisions may, in case of military necessity, and in case they suspect espionage or treason, send away, singly or in mass, the inhabitants of villages or towns, and instal them in other places." Thus under cover of a charge of treason and insurrection the Turkish officials are proceeding with what has every appearance of a systematic attempt to wipe out the Armenian population.

The *Missionary Review* has provided its readers with a somewhat extended report, in many instances verbatim, from documents, the names of whose writers, and the places described, have been withheld for reasons that are obvious. But it is affirmed that a special American committee has investigated these reports and this com-

mittee vouches for the truth of the statements therein contained. These documents include reports such as these: "These poor exiles were mostly women, children, and old men, and they were clubbed and beaten and lashed along as though they had been wild animals, and their women and girls were daily criminally outraged, both by their guards and the ruffians of every village through which they passed. . . . About 2,000 of them have passed through ———, all more dead than alive; many hundreds have died from starvation and abuse along the roadside, and nearly all are dying of starvation, thirst, or being kidnapped by the Anaza Arabs in the desert where they have been taken. We know how they are being treated because our ——— exiles are in the same place, and one young Armenian doctor, who was there making medical examinations of soldiers for the government, has returned and told us." . . . "Three days before the starting of the Armenians from ———, after a week's imprisonment, Bishop ——— had been hanged, with seven other notables. After these hangings, seven or eight other notables were killed in their own houses for refusing to go out of the city. Seventy or eighty other Armenians, after being beaten in prison, were taken to the woods and killed. The Armenian population of ——— was sent off in three batches; I was among the third batch. . . . Our party left June 1, fifteen gendarmes going with us. The party numbered four or five hundred persons. We had got only two hours away from home, when bands of villagers and brigands in large numbers, with rifles, guns, axes, etc., surrounded us on the road, and robbed us of all we had. . . . After this they separated the men, one by one, and shot them all

within six or seven days—every male over fifteen years of age. By my side were killed two priests, one of them over ninety years of age. These bandsmen took all the good-looking women and carried them off on their horses. Very many women and girls were thus carried off to the mountains, among them my sister, whose one-year-old baby they threw away.”

These instances, which might be multiplied many times, help us to appreciate the significance of the authorized statement: “Of the Armenian people as a whole one-third or more are gone, and this third includes the leaders in every walk of life, merchants, professional men, preachers, bishops, and government officials.” And it is estimated that at the beginning of the massacre in July there were 2,000,000 Armenians under Turkish rule.

It is well to recall that America has more interest in Turkey than in any other country, or possibly more than all Europe together. This interest is not political but humanitarian. For a century the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions has prosecuted its work with vigor and statesman-like foresight, so that their institutions and various enterprises now loom large. But these institutions, the fruit of a century of unstinted efforts, are now being crushed. One of these institutions to suffer is the American Mission College at Harput, which is reported thus: “Approximately two-thirds of the girl pupils, and six-sevenths of the boys have been taken away to death, exile, or Moslem homes. Of our professors four are gone and three are left.”

In the strict sense of the term there is no Armenia at the present time. From 1375 Armenia has had no separate national existence, but two-thirds of the entire Armenian population reside in Turkey.

The *Missionary Review* asks if Germany does not bear some of the responsibility—if not for inciting the outrage, at least for failure to demand that Turkey, her ally, immediately put an end to these butcheries. That some far-reaching pressure could be brought to bear upon Turkey by Germany, if she so desired, seems to be suggested to us by the fact that permission has recently been obtained through the German embassy for those connected with the German mission, a circle of several hundred, to remain.

Laymen's Missionary Movement Well Started

The sessions of the Laymen's Missionary Movement held in Chicago in October gave a splendid impetus to the series of similar missionary conventions to be held throughout the United States. The *Continent* of October 21 informs us that the total registration on the closing afternoon of the convention numbered 4,523. This is more than double the attendance at the Chicago convention six years ago, when the Laymen's Movement projected a similar movement. The Baptists led in the enrolment, having a total of 877; the Presbyterians came second with 871; they were followed by the Methodists with 842 and the Congregationalists with 700. One possible reason for the success of the Baptists is the fact that the convention was made to further the great Five-Year Program in which that denomination is now engaged.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Scientific Point of View within the Church

A brief article appears in *Religious Education* for October under the name of Professor George A. Coe which is well worth

careful consideration on the part of church and Sunday-school workers. The point which Professor Coe endeavors to force upon the attention of his readers is the need to know the facts which pertain to the